



The Journal

Vol. 26

No. 24

www.cnmc.navy.mil/bethesda/

June 19, 2014

A Combined Celebration

Sailors Frocked, Army Birthday Celebrated During Joint Event

By Bernard S. Little
WRNMMC Public Affairs
staff writer

Observing the Army's 239th birthday and the frocking of more than 60 Sailors, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) was the scene of combined celebrations for both on June 12 in the Memorial Auditorium.

Wearing uniforms patterned after those donned by the musicians of Gen. George Washington's Continental Army, which go back to the roots of when the Army was established on June 14, 1775, members of the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps played music from the period to welcome attendees to the event. They then played the national anthem to begin the celebrations.

Following "The Star-Spangled Banner," Master Chief Maria Fernandez, WRNMMC senior enlisted leader, saluted the Sailors being frocked, explaining its a Navy tradition permitting petty officers to wear the rank of a higher grade before their official date of promotion. She added a Sailor who is frocked has earned "the trust and support of leadership" to advance to the next rank.

Although 61 Sailors were frocked during last week's ceremony, in total, 73 Walter Reed Bethesda petty officers were selected for promotion this spring, according to Fernandez. She explained those Sailors unable to attend the ceremony were on temporary assigned duty, leave or had transferred. The advancement rates for Walter Reed Bethesda Sailors were 15 percent for E-6 (10 selectees); 12 percent for E-5 (21 selectees); and 12 percent for E-4 (42 selectees). "The Walter Reed Bethesda leadership congratulates all of them," Fernandez said.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd



Photos by Katrina Skinner

A group of 1st Class Petty Officers is frocked during a ceremony June 12 at Walter Reed Bethesda as part of a combined celebration for the Sailors and the Army's 239th birthday.

Class Markeece Oneale, one of the Sailors frocked during last week's ceremony, said, "It means a great deal. I've put a lot of time and effort into it. I've had a lot of mentors push me along the way. Also, I have cousins in the Navy and they are all first class [petty officers]. I'm the last one to get frocked, so it feels pretty good," he continued.

"My responsibilities now are to help my fellow junior Sailors to pick up rank," Oneale added. "I'd like to give back and help those whom I can," he said.

After the frocking ceremony, Army Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Zak, chief clinical non-commissioned officer for WRNMMC, led the Army's birthday celebration, discussing its values and profession of arms.

Originating from humble beginnings in 1775 when it was



During a ceremony June 12, Walter Reed Bethesda celebrates the Army's 239th birthday with a camouflage cake and the singing of the Army song. On stage for the cake-cutting (from left), Walter Reed Bethesda Director Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Clark, Pfc. Khailah Mata, representing the medical center's most junior Soldier, Col. Charles McQueen, representing Walter Reed Bethesda's most senior Soldier, and Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Zak, chief clinical noncommissioned officer at Walter Reed Bethesda.

See **CELEBRATION** page 7

USU Corner

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) held its 35th Commencement on Armed Forces Day, May 17. Our graduates heard from Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness Jessica L. Wright, who spoke to them about their responsibilities as practitioners and scientists.

Commencement is always an extraordinary event for the graduates, the University and its faculty, and also for the families. USU Commencements are marked by the large number of family members and especially the number of graduates' children in attendance, as many of our students — likely more than at other academic health centers — are married and have families. It's always a joyous and sometimes very vocal occasion tempered by moments of great solemnity and respect for the work that has paved the path and the seriousness of purpose of the future that lies ahead.

Graduation is a time not only to celebrate the academic achievements of our students, but also the sacrifices made by their families and the commitment of the faculty to their education and training. It is a time to reflect on the course chosen and the decisions that lie ahead. All of our alumni are joined by a commitment to public health, to our nation, to caring for those who serve and for finding ways to improve health and to protect those in uniform.

I always welcome incoming students with great pleasure, anticipation and bid farewell to our graduates with enormous satisfaction and shared pride in their many accomplishments. I am certain I share these feelings with virtually all university presidents. Nevertheless, I doubt there are many, if any, others who address their academic health center graduates knowing they are not only uniquely equipped to serve their patients and their nation, but that they are looking at careers of unbounded opportunity.

Our graduates have learned about health care: from clinical care to the research that undergirds it from a curriculum that has an emphasis on prevention. They know this is not solely a philosophical position. As I have often said, a line commander is pleased when an injured troop is returned to duty



but much happier when they do not get sick or wounded in the first place. We focus on health promotion and disease prevention in ways that the rest of the nation is beginning to understand and trying to emulate.

In speaking to our graduates, I remind them that they are entering or continuing their careers unfettered by financial debt and have the great privilege to practice within a health care system where they will not have

to ask, as one of our former Surgeons General put it, "how sick can your patient afford to be?" Their work will begin within a system that focuses on care, advancing that care and providing for those who serve and have served our nation and their families.

Our graduates are also well-educated and equipped as national leaders in health care policy. The cost of health care is of enormous concern to all of us — within the DOD and for our entire economy. I urge them to use their knowledge and extraordinary leadership skills to play a role in these debates. The issues are complex and changes to current systems will have far reaching consequences. We should seek to instill and insure the core values to any system of access to care, continuing investments in education and research, and maintaining quality and sustainability.

As alumni of USU, our graduates have unique opportunities to serve the nation. Their careers will take them places others may only rarely go and they have learned skills that others, who have earned the same degrees, do not have. These special qualities are apparent to those of us who know them well: we understand how they came to be, the experiences and the struggles that built them. I believe they will find as they progress through their careers that these skills will help them provide the kind of leadership that can make a difference in achieving many different goals. I ask that they work always to align those goals with the values they learned at USU.

Charles L. Rice, MD
President
Uniformed Services University
of the Health Sciences

Bethesda Notebook

Murtha Cancer Center

The John P. Murtha Cancer Center at Walter Reed Bethesda, the Department of Defense's only Center of Excellence for Cancer Care, will host its annual research seminar on June 23 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the America Building, Rm. 2525 (registration is required for continuing medical education credit). On June 24, the center will host its Cancer Awareness Day in the America Building, first floor lobby. For more information about either event, contact Kerri Cronin at 301-400-1477, or Kerri.l.cronin.ctr@health.mil, or Bill Mahr at 301-400-1492, or William.p.mahr.ctr@health.mil.

TeamSTEPPS Training

TeamSTEPPS (Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety) will conduct a two-day train the trainer course on June 25 to 26 and July 30 to 31. There will also be a four-hour fundamentals course for TeamSTEPPS on July 14. TeamSTEPPS is designed to improve patient outcomes by improving communication and teamwork skills. Continuing education units are possible through Duke University. For registration, times and location, contact Hospital Education and Training Navy Lt. Asia Raheem at Asia.O.Raheem@health.mil or call 301-400-2822, or Army Sgt. Derek Awantoh at Derek.Awantoh.mil@health.mil or call 301-400-0707.

Published by offset every Thursday by Comprint Military Publications, 9030 Comprint Court, Gaithersburg, Md. 20877, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Navy, under exclusive written contract with the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Md. This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of The Journal are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of Navy. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Comprint, Inc., of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without re-



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News copy should be submitted to the Public Affairs Office, Building 11, lower level, Room 41, by noon one week preceding the desired publication date. News items are welcomed from all installation sources. Inquiries about news copy will be answered by calling 301-400-1381. Commercial advertising should be placed with the publisher by telephoning 301-921-2800. Publisher's advertising offices are located at 9030 Comprint Court, Gaithersburg, Md. 20877. Classified ads can be placed by calling 301-670-1700.

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Sailors, Soldiers 'Learn, Grow' in LPN Course

By Sharon Renee Taylor
WRNMMC Public Affairs
staff writer

To bridge the gap of differentiating medical proficiencies of Navy Corpsmen and Army 68 Charlie/Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), Sailors are participating in a newly-revised Army-based Phase II training program.

The program that teaches practical nursing specialists to perform preventive, therapeutic and emergency nursing care procedures is now available to Sailors for the first time at Walter Reed Bethesda. After completing the requirements of the year-long course and passing a national licensure examination, students will be credentialed as LPNs.

Four Sailors assigned to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) joined the 21 Soldiers and seven Army Reservists March 3 at San Antonio Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. During the first phase of the 54-week pilot program, they learned anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology as well as microbiology. On May 27, the 32 students arrived at WRNMMC for Phase II.



Photo by Sharon Renee Taylor

Soldiers and Sailors learn together in a newly-revised Army-based training program designed to bridge the gap of differentiating medical proficiencies.

Throughout the second-half of the course, students will obtain clinical hours in medical, surgical and specialty areas such as Medical and Surgical Intensive Care Units along with the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. The future LPNs will further attend training at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, Va., according

to Army Sgt. 1st Class Steven Brown, Phase II Senior Enlisted Leader and instructor for the course at Walter Reed Bethesda.

"This is a phenomenal opportunity for these junior Corpsmen and Soldiers to collaboratively work together for a common goal, to be the best licensed practical nurses the Navy and

Army have to offer," said Army Maj. Jeff Hillis, Deputy Director for the Phase II site. "The in-depth quality of didactic instruction, coupled with a robust clinical experience, attests to Walter Reed Bethesda's flagship of healthcare mantra."

Hillis indicated the joint-effort pilot program is the first

of its kind in the history of the practical nurse course, and is designed to advance the skillset of both groups of service members toward completion.

"This is a good place to learn and grow," WRNMMC Director Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Jeffrey B. Clark told students June 5. "I also think it's a good place to develop as a service member, as a Soldier or a Sailor."

Clark encouraged the students to revel and take full advantage of the joint setting of Walter Reed Bethesda with "Army, Navy, [Marine and] Air Force, working as one team."

"We're very glad to have you here ... proactively, patient-friendly [and] actively looking for ways we can make the patient experience as positive as we can," he added.

Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class-Select Charla Watson said she was glad to be one of the first Sailors to participate in a training program that will provide them the opportunity to attain credentials as Licensed Practical Nurses.

"It was a lot of corpsmen that fought for this position, and we were selected accordingly, and

See LPN page 10

NSAB Staff Member Receives Prestigious Scholarship

By Julie Smith
NSAB Public Affairs
staff writer

Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB) Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Liaison Bonnie Hayes-Johnson said she had never been as nervous as the day she was interviewed by a representative from the Pat Tillman Foundation as a potential 2014 Tillman Military Scholar winner — not even on her recent wedding day or during her 2004 Kuwait deployment.

But nervousness turned to elation May 15 when Hayes-Johnson learned she and 58 others were awarded scholarships covering tuition, books and transportation for an entire academic year. The scholarship also provides a living stipend.

In 2002, Pat Tillman, a member of the National Football League's Arizona Cardinals, put his professional football career on hold to serve in the U.S. Army. While in Afghanistan with the 2nd Battalion,

75th Ranger Regiment based at then-Fort Lewis, Wash., Tillman was killed in combat. A foundation providing educational scholarships to military veterans and spouses was established in 2004 in his name.

President and co-founder of the Pat Tillman Foundation Marie Tillman, Pat's widow, said in a press release the annual Tillman Military Scholar award is an investment in the higher education of our nation's active duty service members, veterans and military spouses.

"Through our mission, we are proud to support and empower these outstanding leaders as they pursue their educational goals and strive to impact significant, positive change for our country and communities after their military service," Tillman said.

Hayes-Johnson, an Air Force veteran, was already working towards a Master's degree in sports industry management at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., when she heard about the scholarship from a classmate.



Courtesy photo

"My post 9/11 education benefits were ending," she said. "So I did some research and really liked what the Pat Tillman Foundation did for the community."

In applying for the scholarship, Hayes-Johnson highlighted her military service, what volunteer efforts she had been a part of and what she planned to do professionally with her education.

Enlisting in the Air Force in 2000 at 18 — a year before

the terrorist attacks of 9/11 — Hayes-Johnson said at the time, the military was just something for her to do instead of going to college.

"I didn't really want to go to college yet," she said. "But once I got into the military and I understood the culture and how important it was to be in the military, my ideas kind of shifted. I realized I was in the military because there's a bigger mission, and I'm a part of it."

During her deployment to Kuwait, Hayes-Johnson served as a mental health technician directly involved in patient care for service members. She said some were suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder due to combat and others were trying to deal with unresolved personal issues back in the United States.

"That's very difficult to do that when you're in Iraq," Hayes-Johnson said. "So we just helped them process through it and gave them the support to continue to fight. I think we did a very good service — it was very interesting and I learned a lot."

After seven years in the Air Force, Hayes-Johnson decided to transition from the military and go to college full-time. She enrolled in the journalism program at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas (UNLV) and earned a Bachelor's degree. After graduation she returned home to Chicago, Ill., but it was tough to find work. She even-

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Hospital Corps Celebrates 116th Birthday

By Bernard S. Little
WRNMMC Public Affairs
staff writer

“The rating of hospital corpsman is the most decorated in the United States Navy with 22 Medals of Honor, 178 Navy Crosses, 31 Navy Distinguished Service Medals, 946 Silver Stars, over 1,500 Bronze Stars [and] 20 naval ships have been named after hospital corpsmen. This is who we are,” said Master Chief Pietro Martone, senior enlisted leader for the Directorate for Medicine at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC).

Martone, along with other WRNMMC leaders, saluted the Hospital Corps on its 116th birthday on June 17 during a cake-cutting ceremony in the rotunda of the Tower (Building 1) at WRNMMC.

“I want you to think about our legacy, those who have served in the past, and who we are,” Martone continued. Established on June 17, 1898, the Hospital Corps provides



Photo by Bernard S. Little

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) Director Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Jeffrey B. Clark (center) is joined by Chief Hospital Corpsman Joseph DeLaCruz, the most senior in age hospital corpsman, and Hospitalman Tiffani Trentham, the youngest member of the Hospital Corps to cut a cake celebrating the 116th birthday of the Navy Hospital Corps Tuesday in the Tower on Naval Support Activity Bethesda.

health care and help ensure readiness to Sailors, Marines other service members, their families and others entrusted to their care on the battlefield, at sea, under the sea and in

military treatment facilities. Today, the Hospital Corps consists of more than 25,000 active duty and reserve Navy hospital corpsman and in addition to being the most deco-

rated, is the largest rating in the Navy, according to the Department of the Navy.

“The duties of a hospital corpsman require extensive training and the ability to adapt to any situation when called upon,” the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery adds.

Matron explained the legacy of the Hospital Corps is built upon the professionalism and hard work of those who served in its ranks in the past. “It’s a legacy for us to maintain, honor, and carry on into the future. That’s what our nation expects from us.”

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Sophia Jurado said, “Few military organizations can look upon their history with the same degree of pride, and in some cases awe, as the members of the Navy Hospital Corps.” She also noted, “Throughout its history the corps has proven itself ready to support Marines and Sailors by giving them comfort whenever and wherever necessary. The Hospital Corps’ unselfish dedication to duty has

been unparalleled.”

Navy Medicine Force Master Chief Sherman Boss stated in a letter read at the ceremony by Hospital Corpsman 2nd Davin Laurell, that the Hospital Corps’ history is “well documented and storied with extraordinary heroism by hospital corpsmen who performed above and beyond the call of duty.” He added like today’s hospital corpsmen, those heroes cared for “the nation’s most precious commodity – the American citizen, our fellow shipmates and service members.”

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Clark, WRNMMC director, encouraged members of the Hospital Corps, and all those who serve at the medical center, “to work at the top of their skill sets.” The general added he was proud to participate in a recent frocking ceremony for more than 70 Sailors at Walter Reed Bethesda and witness “the next level of talent preparing to take on greater

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“Walk the Walk and Talk the Talk” Put an End to Distracted Driving

By Mass Communication
Specialist 2nd Class
Ashante Hammons
NSAB Public Affairs
staff writer

“As humans, we are naturally drawn to things that promote ease and convenience; and cell phones certainly fit the bill. However, we humans also usually fail to account for the unintended consequences of our actions,” said Jim Ganz, Naval Support Activity Bethesda Safety Manager. “Cell phone use (in conjunction with driving) is a fine example of this. We have become “habitualized” to the availability of cell phones, everywhere and at all times. Despite the preponderance of evidence that demonstrates the dangers of these actions, and punitive consequences to getting caught doing them, it is difficult to break ourselves of these habits.”

Cell phone usage while driving is an example of distracted driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person’s attention away from the primary task of driving. Although they may seem harmless in nature, other examples of distracted driving include talking to passengers, eating and drinking, using a navigation system or reading a map. These activities require the brain to attempt the job of multitasking, meaning that the brain must do two or more activities at once. However, multitasking is not possible for the human brain.

“What we do is shuffle between tasks with our attention on only one at a time. Driving and having a conversation involve two thinking tasks and our brains cannot process both at the same time,” said Ganz. “So people ask, ‘what about walking and chewing gum? I can do both of those at the same time?’ That is because they are both non-thinking tasks and we do not need our brains to process these tasks. Others ask, ‘if driving and talking are both thinking tasks, what about talking with passenger?’ Yes, talking with passengers is pretty much the same as talking on a cell phone, but having passengers in the vehicle tends to make driving safer since there is at least one extra pair of eyes on the road.”

Distractions can be divided into three main types: visual — taking your eyes off the road to look at a billboard or check self in the mirror; manual — taking your hands off the wheel to reach for a fallen object or to get a drink of water; and cognitive — taking your mind off the road while occupied with visual and manual distractions.

“Texting while driving is one of the activities that combine all three primary distractions at once, which is why texting and driving has been compared to the impairments associated with drinking and driving” said Ganz. “However, it’s not just about texting. Studies have shown that drivers who use handheld devices (including talking on cell phones) are four times more likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves or oth-



Courtesy photo

ers, than those not using these devices.”

Distracted driving, like the warnings of not wearing a seatbelt in moving vehicles, has become a serious issue over the past few years.

“The proliferation of cell phones with unlimited texting offered by just about every cell phone company, and promotion of hands-free devices, including those built into vehicle’s audio systems that are promoted as a safety feature by automobile makers have all contributed to the rise of distracted driving as being a serious issue,” said Ganz. “Of all, the explosion of cell phone use in today’s society is the primary mover, but all these others have contributed in part.”

Maryland and Washington D.C. recently banned handheld devices for all drivers, and Maryland, D.C., and Virginia banned texting for all drivers. These laws are considered primary, meaning that a police officer does not need to see another violation to pull you over. In regards to all Navy military personnel, the Navy’s Traffic Safety Instruction (OPNAVINST 5100.12) states all Navy military personnel at all times, all personnel driving or riding in a motor vehicle on a Navy installation, and all persons driving or riding in a motor vehicle owned or leased by the Navy, at all times, on or off base including rental cars while on official orders.

“More important than any regulation, law or policy is the need for drivers to understand their actions, the risk they pose to themselves and others, and to accept personal responsibility for changing their behavior to reduce this risk. We have seen this in the past with seat belt use and drinking and driving issues. Like these issues, change will not occur over night. Again, like these issues, laws alone will have little effect,” said Ganz. “This is why various organizations that promote safe driving have developed campaigns to raise awareness and get

people talking about this issue. Most of us on this installation are active-duty military or Department of Defense civilians. As such, we are charged to develop and demonstrate leadership in a number of areas. We are expected to set the example for our friends, families and other co-workers in everything we do. So, regarding this issue, we must lead. Set the example.”

For more information on the Navy’s stance on distracted driving on military installations as well as at all times, read the Navy’s Traffic Safety Instruction (OPNAVINST 5100.12).

Please contact the NSAB Safety Manager at james.ganz@med.navy.mil for any questions or to set up a time to meet with a group.

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Photo story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ashante Hammons

Patrons spend their lunch time playing a competitive game of basketball as part of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department Basketball League. Games are held every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30 and 12:15.

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Command Sergeant Major Howard Wheeler
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Gina and Master Sergeant Reinaldo Ortiz with children
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CELEBRATION

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made up of state militias with citizen Soldiers to defend the new colonies from British forces, the U.S. Army has since grown from its initial 10 companies of Continental troops to a force of approximately 1.1 million.

Zak explained the Army established its values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage as well as its Warrior Ethos to help guide its Soldiers, but the focus of his presentation was on lines from the Soldier's Creed and NCO Creed which respectively state, "I am an expert and I am a professional," and "No one is more professional than I."

The sergeant major encouraged all service members at Walter Reed Bethesda to think about and be professionals by "taking that extra moment to make sure their uniforms are within standards and they are wearing them properly. Make sure you're doing the right thing and living by your service values," he added. "Remember that you're not just a health care professional, but you're also a member of the profession of arms."

Referring to a 2010 Army white paper concerning the Profession of Arms, Zak stated professions and professionals produce "uniquely expert work, not routine or repetitive work. Medicine, theology, law, and the military are — social trustee forms of professions. Effectiveness, rather than pure efficiency, is the key to the work of professionals — the sick wants a cure, the sinner wants absolution, the accused wants exoneration, and the defenseless seeks security."

In addition, "the profession exists only through a relationship of trust with the client, and to maintain that trust, the profession requires the continuous development of human practitioners, (i.e. experts) who hold high levels of knowledge, adaptability, resilience, and other attributes that make them effective members of the Profession of Arms," the White Paper states.

Also, the profession requires "unwavering, deeply held values on which to base its ethic. Those values, when well internalized, are manifested in the character of individual professionals, and the profession provides a vital service to American society, and does so in subordination. That service is manifested in the duty of the individual professional."

Following Zak's presentation, he was joined on stage by WRNMMC Director Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Jeffrey B. Clark and Col. Charles McQueen, representing Walter Reed

Bethesda's most senior Soldier, and Pfc. Khailah Mata, representing the medical center's most junior Soldier, to cut the Army birthday cake.

After the cake was cut, Soldiers sang the Army song to conclude the ceremony.

Army Staff Sgt. Andres Moorman, an academic instructor in the Department of Health Professions Education at WRNMMC, said he proudly celebrates the Army's birthday because it means "being a part of the forces that defend the Constitution and support America's freedom. It means service to others, selfless service, and it means a lot to serve in this capacity. I can't imagine myself doing anything else."

The Army staff sergeant added at Walter Reed Bethesda, it's important to celebrate all of the services' birthdays. "We are increasingly becoming a joint service and lately, that's becoming more prevalent. For example, in theater, it's not just the Army, it's not just the Marines, it's not just the Navy, and it's not just the Air Force," Moorman said. "We're all working together to accomplish the same mission, whether it's winning the war on terror, a humanitarian mission, or securing America's borders here. Everybody has an important role to play and we all do it together. One service cannot do it without the other, so it's important for us to understand each other and be unified," the Soldier concluded.

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World Class Brief Presented to Independent Review Panel, Staff

By Sarah Marshall
WRNMMC Public
Affairs staff writer

To demonstrate commitment to excellence and patient-friendly access, Walter Reed Bethesda recently presented a World Class Brief to an independent review panel comprised of several flag officers and representatives from civilian health care organizations.

During a town hall last week, staff members reviewed the brief which charts the medical center's initiatives to continue enhancing patient safety and using resources efficiently. As outlined in the presentation, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Clark, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) director, explained what it means to be world class.

It's when the "exceptional is routine," and the needs of those served are met – mentally, physically, spiritually and so-



Photo by Sarah Marshall

On May 22, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) presented its World Class Brief to an Independent Review Panel. During a town hall last week, WRNMMC Director Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Clark (center) presented the brief to staff.

cially, the general stated.

"Fundamentally, to be world class, [the facility] needs to go beyond compliance," he said.

WRNMMC has done just that, with Joint Commission accreditation for the entire hospital, as well as accreditations in numerous specialties, such as the stem cell service, simulation center, laboratory,

and blood bank, Clark offered. The medical center also has the first and only Department of Defense (DOD) cancer center of excellence, the John P. Murtha Cancer Center, in addition to receiving Level II trauma center verification, making it one of only 155 in the U.S. verified by the American College of Surgeons.

The general added there are six key domains that are considered components of a world class medical facility: basic infrastructure, leadership and culture, processes of care, performance, knowledge management, and community and social responsibility. Clark described how each of these domains applies to the nation's

medical center, as outlined in the brief.

As part of its basic infrastructure, WRNMMC has received LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Gold certification, as well as several other building design awards, including the Design-Build Merit Award for Healthcare Facilities. WRNMMC was also noted as one

of the most innovative health care architecture and interior design projects in the U.S. by Health Facilities Management. Several way-finding measures are in place, including "zones" to help patients, visitors and staff find their way around, Clark said. Additionally, "Fast Track" is used to help see patients more expeditiously and make flow through the Emergency Department much quicker, he added.

Internal and external communications are also essential to WRNMMC's infrastructure, as well as emergency preparedness exercises throughout the year, the general continued. Basic concepts also include collaborative agreements with other medical treatment facilities, as well as practicing a patient and family-centered care model, Medical Home, allowing patient's families to be ac-

See **BRIEF** page 14

Educators Gather to Discuss New Methods, Promote Continuing Education

By Julie Smith
NSAB Public Affairs
staff writer

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) aboard Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB) held its seventh annual Education Day June 12 on the university's campus.

The USU faculty senate organized the event and lectures referenced Education Day's theme, "Judging Success in Education Health Professions." The event aimed to promote continuing education of USU faculty, staff and students; to facilitate the transmission of strategies between research and clinical disciplines; and to discuss pioneering and effective strategies used in health science education.

Program highlights included keynote speakers Penn State College of Medicine's Associate Dean for Assessment Dr. Klara Papp, Ph.D., and Dr. John Boulet, Foundation for the Advancement of Interna-



Photos by Julie Smith

Audience members listen to education innovation award presentations during The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences's seventh annual Education Day June 12.

tional Medical Education and Research. Panel discussion focused on current assessment and best practices in health education.

The day's events culminated in the presentation of the education innovation awards, given to USU educators who planned

and taught modules and courses with new or inventive materials and methods. In the weeks leading up to Education Day, USU educators submitted abstracts chronicling their innovative teaching approach. Six finalists were chosen to present their

original instruction methods, which were judged by department deans, previous innovation award winners and audience members.

Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Craig Goolsby, assistant professor of military and emergency medicine, and



Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Adam Saperstein (left) and Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Craig Goolsby tied for The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences's judge's innovation award.

Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Adam Saperstein, director of reflective practice, both received the judge's innovation award when scoring ended in a tie.

Goolsby's hybrid simulation presentation outlined a teaching method integrating several different types of simulated training, including low and high fidelity simulators, virtual simulation environments, cut-suit

simulators, mannequins and live patient actors.

"Every time we asked the students if they liked the training, their responses were overwhelmingly positive," Goolsby said. "Hybrid simulation is really the cutting edge of where (health education) is going now."

Saperstein co-created the Wounded Warrior

See **EVENT** page 12

AER, NMCRS

A Successful End for Inaugural Joint Command Fund Drive

By Bernard S. Little
WRNMMC Public Affairs
staff writer

The inaugural Joint Command Fund Drive at Walter Reed Bethesda ended successfully last month, according to campaign organizers. Members of the command contributed over 21 percent more to the joint campaign effort this year than last year, when separate drives were held for the Army Emergency Relief (AER) and the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS).

"We're one team 24/7, so we should be one team when we take on issues like this, which are critically important," said Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) Director Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Jeffrey B. Clark, during the kick-off for the four-week campaign in April.

"This is service members helping service members, and our opportunity to do what we can for those who serve with us," added Navy Capt. David A. Bitonti, Naval Support Activity Bethesda commanding officer.

The mission of AER, NMCRS and the Air Force Aid Society (AFAS), is to help Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and their families by providing emergency financial aid

(in the form of a direct grant, an interest-free loan or both), and educational assistance, including college scholarships.

Army Capt. Kyle Peper, a lead coordinator for the joint campaign, along with Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Mark G. Brown, briefed the medical center staff about the results during WRNMMC leadership forum June 3 and town hall meetings last week.

"Joint is the explicative term," Peper said. "The partnership between sister services added a synergy to our efforts beyond what one individual service could achieve," the Army captain added. "We owe a special thanks to our key personnel, strategic partnerships, supporting programs and contributors for helping us reach this distinctive achievement. Their dedication to duty and selfless service directly supported an invaluable program that assists our fellow service members when they are faced with financial hardships and allows for commanders to accomplish their missions."

Peper continued, total contributions to the combined AER and NMCRS campaign this year was \$32,413, exceeding last year's total contributions to separate campaigns for AER and NMCRS



Photo by Bernard S. Little

Army Capt. Kyle Peper, a lead coordinator for the Joint Command Fund Drive for the Army Emergency Relief and the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society at Walter Reed Bethesda, briefs medical center staff about the campaign results during a town hall meeting June 10 in the Memorial Auditorium.

of \$26,788 by 21 percent. This year, contributions to AER totaled \$17,528, up from last year's AER contributions of \$13,288 by 32 percent. Contributions to NMCRS totaled \$14,885 this year, up from \$13,500 last year, a 10 percent increase in donations.

The total contribution to this year's campaign of the more than \$32,400 also exceeded this year's goal of \$21,250, a 25 percent increase from last year's goal.

Peper said another goal was to have face-to-face contact with all of those eligible to contribute to the campaign, and a table was set up daily from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Main Street to help meet that objective during the campaign, which lasted from April 9 through May 15.

"Jointness," and leveraging the enlisted corps were the principle efforts and made it much more efficient to provide 100 percent face-to-face con-

tact with some 3,300 service members in the organization," Peper continued. "Other efforts included a hospital-wide marketing/public affairs plan and strategic partnerships with supporting associations including the Medical Service Corps Association and Junior Officer Council. Additional success can be attributed to participation in parallel efforts to engage the organiza-

See **FUND** page 12

AUXILIARY SECURITY FORCE



JUNE 2014 TRAINING DAY

OLEORESIN CAPSICUM



SCHOLARSHIP

Continued from 3

tually accepted a position at a transitional living program for women aged 17 to 21, and the nature of the job allowed her to provide emotional support to the residents, often donating her own clothes and food to the women in the house.

“I was just happy I was able to support girls from the neighborhood who didn’t really have any family,” Hayes-Johnson said.

After some volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity and an internship with Comcast SportsNet, Hayes-Johnson landed aboard NSAB working for the EFMP. Here she met her husband, Maurice Johnson, a Navy veteran and employee with the Department of Veterans Affairs. They were mar-

ried in March, around the same time Hayes-Johnson had her final interview with the Pat Tillman Foundation.

“When I found out I won, my husband gave me a high-five and he was just so proud of me,” she said.

With her degree, Hayes-Johnson has a dream of starting a nonprofit organization for wounded warriors that focuses on whole health services, including physical, emotional, mental and spiritual, all under one roof.

“Just because you’re missing a limb doesn’t mean that you’re not a whole person,” she said. “I want to have counselors, I want to have coaches, I want to have orthotic and prosthetic specialists. Wounded warriors get a lot here at NSAB because that’s what we focus on, but once they leave this area they don’t have the same opportunities. I know I alone can’t fix that, but I want to be part of the change.”



Photo by Sharon Renee Taylor

Soldiers and Sailors learn nasogastric medication administration techniques in a newly-revised Army-based training program designed to bridge the gap of differentiating medical proficiencies. At the end of the course and passing a national licensure exam, the students will receive credentials as Licensed Practical Nurses.

LPN

Continued from 3

I couldn’t be more excited to be here,” said the Sailor.

Watson said she and her three Navy peers were selected among a group of 60 Walter Reed Bethesda corpsmen who submitted applications, and 20 who interviewed before a board of directors for the program that included senior enlisted LPNs. Each candidate submitted letters of recommendation as well as an application package. Physical Training (PT) and Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) scores were also required.

“We had to be a Quad Zero Corpsman, which means we didn’t have a specialty yet,” she explained. “This is something I think all of us wanted to do and to open it up for future corpsmen is going to be our goal.”

Joining the Sailors is Army Spc. Alicia Griffin, a combat medic who reclassified to become an LPN. She said the pilot program is the first course she has taken with Sailors in her four years of active duty in the Army.

“It’s great. I like it,” said Griffin, who explained her corpsmen classmates share the same military discipline as Soldiers, and agreed they are basically the same — they just wear different uniforms.

The 32 students form the fourth LPN class held at Walter Reed Bethesda since 2011. The current class is tentatively scheduled to complete the pilot program March 27, 2015.

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Photo story for Mass Communication Sepcialist 2nd Class Brandon-Williams Church

Service members and their families take part in NSAB’s first Color Me 5K Run June 7.

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FUND

Continued from 9

tion through the Prosperity Fair and analogous events,” he added.

Although the campaign has officially ended, Peper stated people are still able to contribute to AER, NMCRS and AFAS by visiting their offices in Building 11 (except for AFAS), or their respective websites.

AER provides emergency financial assistance as an interest-free loan, grant or a combination loan and grant, based on a valid need. The organization, established in 1942 and headquartered in Alexandria, Va., has helped Soldiers and their families with emergency travel, privately-owned vehicle repair, rent, utilities, medical and dental expenses, funerals, relocation funds, HVAC repair, repair or replacement of stoves and refrigerators, car seats, cranial helmets, dependent dental care, basic furniture needs, rental cars and replacement vehicles. Since its beginning, AER has provided more than \$1.5 billion to over 3.5 million Soldiers and their families for financial and educational assistance.

The NMCRS, established in 1904, provides financial, educational and other assistance to members of the Navy and Marines, eligible family members and survivors when in need. NMCRS, headquartered in Arlington, Va., as-

sisted more than 65,350 clients in the form of interest-free loans and grants over \$48.6 million in 2013.

Last year, NMCRS provided financial assistance to service members and their families for basic living expenses (food, lodging), transportation (insurance, car payment, rental), car repairs, transportation due to family member illness, family emergency, pay entitlement shortfalls, predatory loan avoidance, funeral expenses, household set up, medical and dental expenses and education.

In 2012, AFAS direct assistance totaled nearly \$18 million, and includes more than 40,000 assists to Airmen and their families, according to AFAS officials. The AFAS direct assistance included \$10.1 million in emergency assistance; \$5.8 million in education assistance; and \$1.9 million in community enhancement programs. Emergency travel expenses accounted for 20 percent of AFAS assistance, 36 percent was provided for basic living expenses, and 28 percent was given for vehicle expenses. This accounted for \$8.6 million. Funeral, medical, dental, moving expenses, respite care, and other emergency needs accounted for \$1.5 million in assistance.

For more information about AER, visit www.aerhq.org. For information concerning NMCRS, visit www.nmcrrs.org. For more information about AFAS, visit www.afas.org.

EVENT

Continued from 8

Partnership, a program that gives students an opportunity to participate in the wounded warrior community by joining an adaptive sports program or a creative arts therapy program.

“The immersive approach is critical. Students can begin to understand the perspective of the wounded warrior community,” Saperstein said. “It gives learners a greater sense of responsibility. They can know what is going to help (wounded warriors) as opposed to what they think might help.”

The audience favorite was Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Grant Lattin’s presentation surrounding a teaching module he modeled after the movie, “The Hunger Games.” Students divided into groups and examined three clinical scenarios. A male and female “tribute” were cho-

sen randomly from each group to discuss the clinical scenarios and defend their treatment choices. At the conclusion of the exercise, one group, or “district” was declared the winner. Lattin developed the teaching method with Dr. James G. Smimiotopoulos, USU department of radiology and radiological assistant professor.

“We tried to create the tension students feel on their first day of rounding,” Lattin said. “The students felt it was fun, engaging, highly motivating, and they received real-time feedback.”

The winning educators said they would continue to refine their innovative teaching ideas thanks to feedback they received during Education Day.

“The intent is to support education and further innovation,” Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Justin Woodson, president of the faculty senate, said. “It’s really inspiring. To hear and see the new ideas and to apply those concepts into educational activities — that’s what stands out for me.”

The general was then joined by Chief Hospital Corpsman Joseph DeLaCruz, the most senior in age hospital corpsman at the ceremony, and Hospitalman Tiffani Trentham, the youngest member of the Hospital Corps in attendance, to cut the Hospital Corps’ birthday cake and conclude the celebration.

BIRTHDAY

Continued from 4

responsibility. It’s our responsibility as leaders we create conditions for you to develop and to work at the top of your skill sets,” he said.

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BRIEF

Continued from 8

tively involved in their care.

The general went on to explain the second domain, leadership and culture. He emphasized WRNMMC leaders bring their experience and background to the table, and advocate what's best for the entire medical center. Leaders also serve on a number of national academic and clinical boards and committees, Clark said.

WRNMMC also offers more than 50 professional training modules throughout the year, to continue growing and shaping staff into leaders. Additionally, the Prosperity Plan was implemented by the general to encourage goal setting and growth among staff. The workbook allows staff to track their personal, professional and relationship goals.

The World Class Brief goes on to outline the transparent process of care at WRNMMC. The general described the Healthcare Resolutions Program as "remarkable," promoting organizational transparency and integrity, while training providers in effective disclosure techniques and ensuring Joint Commission compliance.

The general also explained WRNMMC has demonstrated perfor-

mance, by receiving numerous high ratings in communication with doctors and nurses, pain management, care transition, and responsiveness.

Knowledge management is evidenced by the numerous state-of-the-art technology and applications at WRNMMC, the general stated. The brief explains a brain-controlled limb is one of many innovative tools helping to give wounded warriors better quality of life, as well as the 3D Medical Applications Center, where custom implants are made, such as prosthetic attachments and facial transplants.

WRNMMC is also DOD's leading academic and research medical center, training one-third of the Military Health System's (MHS) military providers, and conducting more than one-third of MHS research, Clark said.

Speaking to community and social responsibility, the general explained there are several community service groups at WRNMMC, and he encourages service members to get involved in their efforts.

"These are outstanding organizations," the general said.

In all, WRNMMC is a tertiary medical center that's growing its relationships with fellow military treatment facilities and medical centers, he said.

"It's good for our patients. It's good for us," he said. "We're very good at what we do."

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